



# CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY



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GOVERNOR

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## Chair Ruskin & Committee Members:

I write to you as a young professional, grateful for the existence of the Cal Grant program and its power to make dreams come true for me — for all deserving young Californians. Day-in and day-out, the legislative process focuses on facts and figures, statistics and formulas, and dollars and cents. The results affect real people, often making the difference between stories of hope and survival and those about despair and loss. Decisions made by legislative bodies can empower people to overcome obstacles despite great adversity, or contribute to their loss of hope and sense of citizenship. My own story would not be possible without the legislative support of Cal Grant.

Cal Grants are one of the most successful assistance programs in the United States. For about five (5) years, I had the honor of serving on the California Student Aid Commissions' Grant Advisory Committee, representing more than 75,000 students at over 70 private and independent universities across the state receiving Cal Grants. I understand the importance of Cal Grants in helping students successfully complete their college educations at the schools that fit their needs. Private non-profit universities offer a different, more intimate, educational setting in which many students thrive. Cal Grants are a primary reason many of these students go to college and graduate in four years.

In my situation, I attended Loyola Marymount University in Los Angeles and graduated the top of my class. Upon graduating, I was accepted in the Capital Fellows Program (Executive Fellowship) and served under Secretary Linda Adams of the California EPA. I have continued to work for them for the past 2 years.

My education and the Cal Grant helped place me in a position to give back as a public servant to the state of California. I am now a contributing member of society. Cal Grants continue to change people's lives for the better. My Cal Grant certainly changed my life.

Thank you for your time and ongoing support of the Cal Grant program.

Sincerely,

Aram Nadjarian  
Director of Special Projects & Advisor to the Secretary